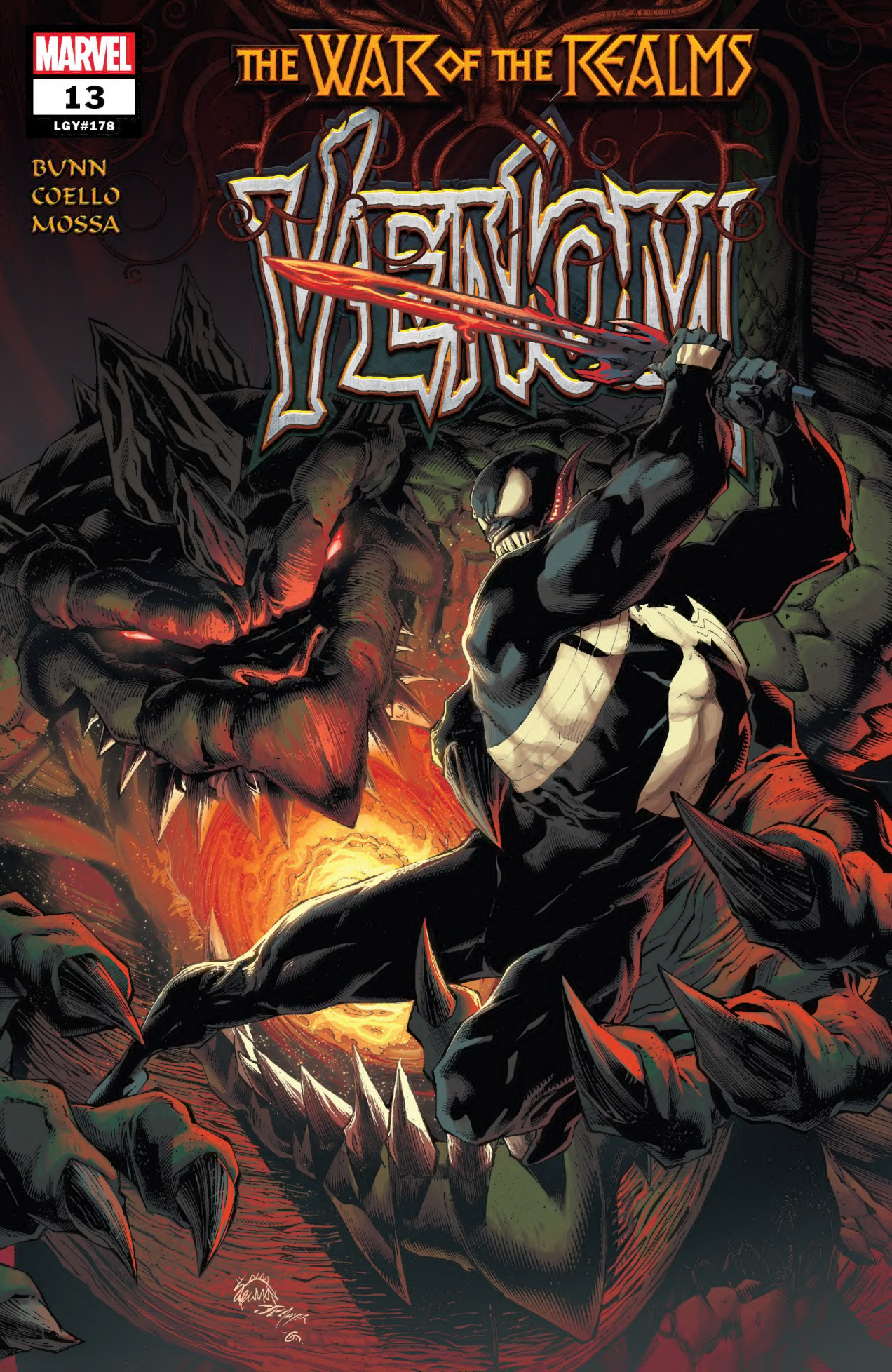

MARVEL
13
LGY#178
THE WAR OF THE REALMS
VENOM
BUNN
COELLO
MOSSA

THE WAR OF THE REALMS

After laying waste to nine of the Ten Realms, the Dark Elf King Malekith and his powerful allies have finally brought the War of the Realms to Midgard — the last realm standing!

Malekith opened a portal to New York—where Eddie Brock and his son, Dylan, have just arrived. Now Frost Giants and Dark Elves roam the streets, and Eddie—no longer bonded with the alien symbiote Venom—must keep his head down and protect Dylan until this all blows over.

VENOM

WARNING! THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE AFTER *WAR OF THE REALMS* #1! IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT YET, PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

written by
CULLEN BUNN

illustrated by
IBAN COELLO

colored by
ANDRES MOSSA

lettered by
VC's CLAYTON COWLES

LAUREN AMARO & DANNY KHAZEM
assistant editors

DEVIN LEWIS
editor

NICK LOWE
executive editor

RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & FRANK MARTIN
cover artists

INHYUK LEE asgardian variant cover artist

C.B. CEBULSKI
editor in chief

JOE QUESADA
chief creative officer

DAN BUCKLEY
president

ALAN FINE
executive producer

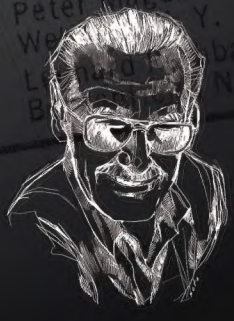
© 2019 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Many of you unsung heroes have written to ask how we really feel about our own mags. You've inquired whether we take them seriously, or just treat 'em as a patently pointless put-on! Well, just for the record, Charlie, we BELIEVE in our swingin' superheroes! We create them—we live with their adventures—their hang-ups—almost 24 hours a day. We know 'em as well as we know our families . . . and **better** than we know Irving Forbush! No, literature lover, our fearless little fables are NOT put-ons! To us, they're what's happening, baby! It's the REAL world we have our doubts about—but that's another story! Till next month then, Face Front! That's where the action is!

ITEM: Speaking of funny mags, the newish of NOT BRAND ECHH is finally sporting its own Letters Page. So, if you've been looking for a reason to latch onto a copy, now you've got it! Incidentally, this maniacal mag has become the "in" sensation of the year! (Now, if we can only figure out WHICH year?)

Ralph Risher, Charleston, S. C.
Leonard Lowe, Panama City, Fla.
David Rinehart, Lansing, Mich.
Ricky MacMillan, Salamanca, N. Y.
Rusty Riddle, Charleston, S. C.
Randy Lishka, Normal, Ill.
Myrna River, New Orleans, La.
Jeffrey Mack, Phila., Pa.
Alan Masuda, Garden[illegible], Calif.
Tom Madden, Moundsville, W. Va.
Peter Magee, [illegible]



STAN LEE
FOREVER

WE'RE NOT DYING OUT HERE.

I'VE GOTTA KEEP REMINDING MYSELF OF THAT.

WE'RE **NOT** DYING.

OF COURSE, SURVIVING'S NOT QUITE AS EASY AS IT ONCE WAS.

MY SYMBIOTE, MY ***OTHER,*** IS GONE.

ONCE UPON A TIME, I MIGHT HAVE FELT ISOLATED AND ALONE.

BUT I AIN'T ALONE ANYMORE.

EDDIE-- WHERE ARE WE GOING?

JUST KEEP COOL, DYLAN.

I'M TAKING YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.

THE KID'S ***MINE...*** BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT.

WITH THE SKY FALLING--FOR REAL--NO SENSE IN FURTHER RUINING HIS DAY.

FOR NOW, HE THINKS I'M HIS ***BIG BROTHER.***

EITHER WAY, HE'S LOOKING TO ME TO SAVE HIS ASS.

GUESS THAT MEANS I'M BEHIND THE STEERING WHEEL.

THE EMERGENCY BRAKES ARE OUT.

MY LIFE'S BEEN BARRELING STRAIGHT INTO HELL FOR A WHILE NOW.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

ABOUT TIME THE *REST* OF THE WORLD CAUGHT UP.

EDDIE--

KEEP IT *DOWN*, KID.

KREEEEE--?

KRRRRK

PARENTAL INSTINCTS WERE BEATEN OUT OF ME BY MY OWN OLD MAN.

BUT I KNOW A DAD GIVES EVERYTHING HE'S GOT TO KEEP HIS CHILDREN SAFE.

SO...ONE MORE TIME.

WE'RE NOT DYING OUT HERE.

THE NEWS SAID IT'S ASGARD--
--FREAKING ASGARD!--
--WAGING WAR AGAINST EARTH!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, KID.
IT'S BAD, WHATEVER IT IS.
AND WE'VE GOT TO BURY OUR HEADS UNTIL IT BLOWS OVER.
I KNOW A PLACE NEAR HERE.
A FRIEND HAS A KIND OF SAFE HOUSE.
WE GET THERE, LOCK THE DOORS AND WAIT FOR THE--
YEEARRGGH!
LEAVE US ALONE!
PLEASE!
LISTEN TO THAT!
THERE'S NO SWEETER SOUND IN ALL THE REALMS!
MIDGARD DIES SCREAMING!
DYLAN--HIDE. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.
I'M GONNA SEE IF I CAN HELP.
H-HELP?!
EDDIE, WHAT CAN YOU DO? YOU'RE NOT VENOM ANYMORE!
YEAH, BUT SYMBIOTE OR NOT--

"--I'M STILL TEN KINDS OF STUPID."
HEY!
LEAVE 'EM ALONE!
WHOEVER YOU ARE--CUT AND RUN.
THIS DOESN'T NEED TO GET MESSY.
YOU DON'T WANT THE KIND OF TROUBLE A GUY LIKE ME CAN--
WHHU--
LOOK, BROTHERS! A HERO!
OOOOOH! IS HE ONE OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?
SO FEARSOME! MAYBE WE SHOULD FLEE!
THREE AGAINST ONE?
THAT'S A PUNK MOVE!
THOK

THEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM, MAN OF MIDGARD.
AGGGH!
SLLLSH
HEROES DIE.
PAINFULLY.
PITIFULLY.
SHKNST
NGGGHH!
IT'S SAD, REALLY.
YOUR KIND ISN'T CUT OUT FOR HEROISM.
AND YET YOU LONG TO EMBRACE IT.
THEY'RE RUNNING!
THE MIDGARDIANS ARE GETTING AWAY!
LEAVE THIS SACK OF FLESH!
LET HIM BLEED OUT AS WE HACK HIS PRECIOUS FLOCK TO PIECES!
A "HERO" SHOULD KNOW WHAT IT IS TO DIE HEARING A LULLABY OF SHRIEKS!

C'MON, EDDIE.
WHERE ARE YOU?
PLEASE BE ALL RIGHT.
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
I TOLD THE OTHERS.
I WARNED THEM THAT THERE MIGHT BE PREY HIDING IN THE SHADOWS.
THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN.
AND SO THEY'VE MISSED A SPOT OF FUN.
O-OKAY.
HEY.
YOU'VE GOT ME...
...I GIVE UP.
POOR BOY.
I'M AFRAID I DO NOT TAKE PRISONERS.
GOOD TO KNOW.

NEITHER DO I.
SCHNAP
Y-YOU KILLED HIM!
YOU JUST...BROKE HIS NECK!
HE DIDN'T GIVE ME...NNN... MUCH CHOICE.
YOU'RE HURT!
EDDIE, YOU'RE BLEEDING!
GOTTA GET TO REX'S SAFE HOUSE.*
*AS SEEN WAY BACK IN VENOM #1, TRUE BELIEVERS! --DEVIN STEVENSON OF MIDGARD
WE'RE NOT DYING OUT HERE.
AT LEAST... DYLAN ISN'T.
NOW THAT IS INTERESTING!
A WOULD-BE WARRIOR.
FULL OF PURPOSE. FULL OF RAGE.
BUT WITHOUT WEAPON AND ARMOR.
CAREFUL.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR YOUR GAMES OF CORRUPTION.
NONSENSE, SISTERS.
AMONGST ALL THIS AWFULNESS...

"...THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR A BIT OF SPORT."

THIS PLACE... DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH TO ME.

GOT A FEW *HIDDEN AMENITIES.*

USED T-TO BELONG TO A GUY NAMED REX STRICKLAND.

F-FRIEND OF MINE.

CH-CLICK

HE KNEW HOW TO SURVIVE.

WHOA.

THAT'S A LOT OF GUNS.

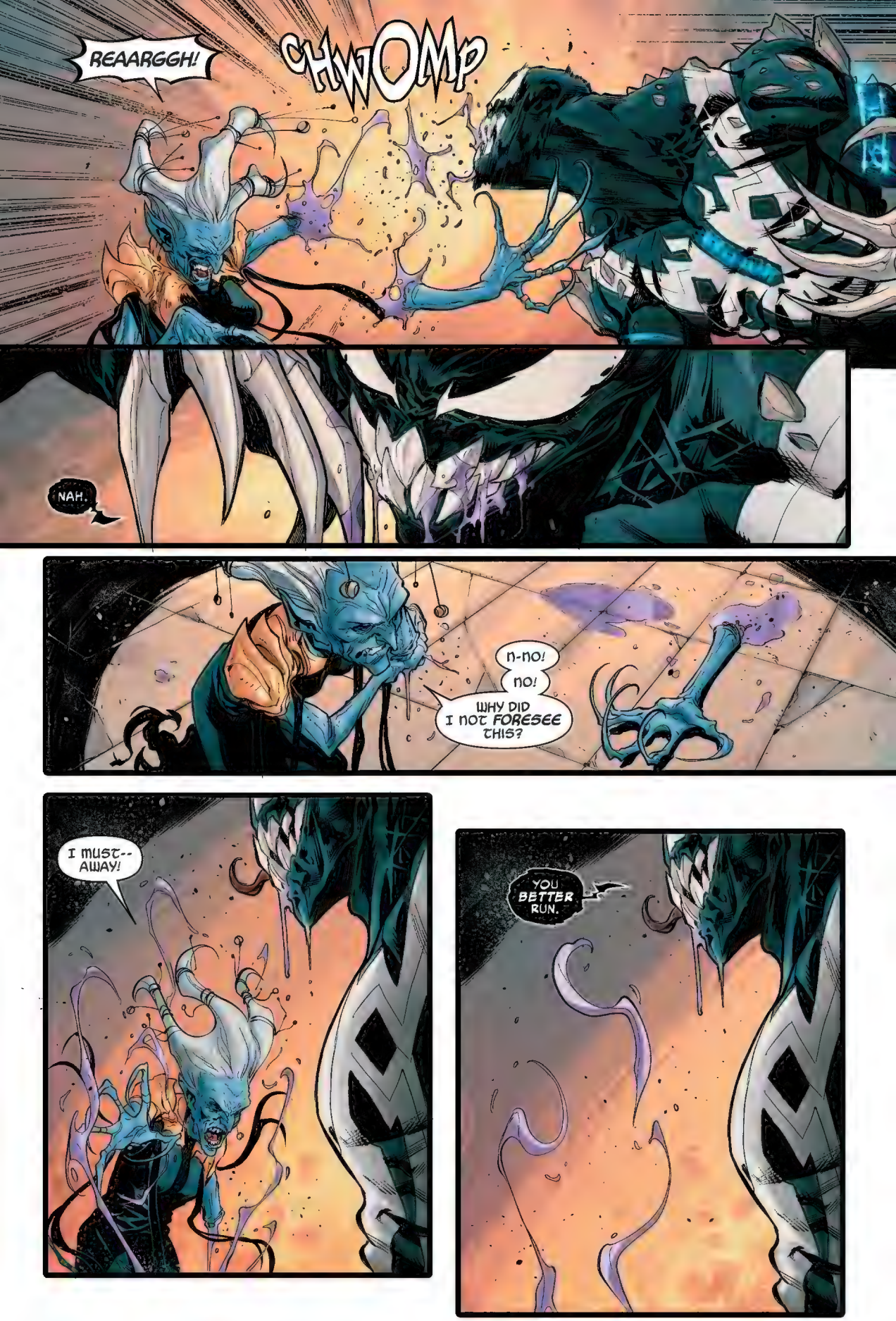
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

YOU DON'T THINK EARTHLY WEAPONS WILL HELP YOU, DO YOU?
NO, NO.
YOU MUST KNOW YOUR SITUATION IS MUCH MORE DIRE THAN THAT.
WHO THE HELL--
AH! A DEMONSTRATION, YES?
NYAA--
BESIDES-- IT'S NOT A FIREARM THAT YOU WANT, IS IT...EDDIE?

IT'S THIS.
A ROCK?
YOU ALL MAY KNOW MY NAME, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
...BECAUSE I'D RATHER HAVE A GUN.
NOT A ROCK, BUT A STONE.
A DREAMSTONE.
QUITE RARE AND HIGHLY PRIZED AMONG MY PEOPLE.
THEY ARE TREASURES...
...THEY ARE INSTRUMENTS OF DELIGHT...
...OR OF TORTURE...
THEY GIVE LIFE TO DREAMS... TO DESIRES...TO FEARS.
THIS ONE, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN ATTUNED TO A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.
WEAPONS.
W-WEAPONS?
EDDIE-- I DON'T TRUST THIS LADY.
I KNOW THE WEAPON YOU DESIRE.
TAKE THE STONE AND YOU SHALL HAVE IT.
I SHALL GIVE YOU A PURPOSE WITH WHICH TO WIELD IT.

WELL...
...THIS IS DIFFERENT...
...SAME...
...BUT DIFFERENT.

EDDIE?
ARE YOU...
...ARE YOU IN THERE?
IT'S ME.
IT'S EDDIE.
I'M ALL RIGHT.
BETTER THAN ALL RIGHT.
I'VE GIVEN YOU THAT WHICH YOU DESIRED.
YES.
WITHIN YOUR NEW ARMOR, YOUR WOUNDS ARE HEALING.
YES.
I'VE GIVEN YOU STRENGTH TO DEFEND THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT.
YES.
AND NOW YOU SHALL USE THESE GIFTS IN THE NAME OF MALEKITH'S CRUSADE--

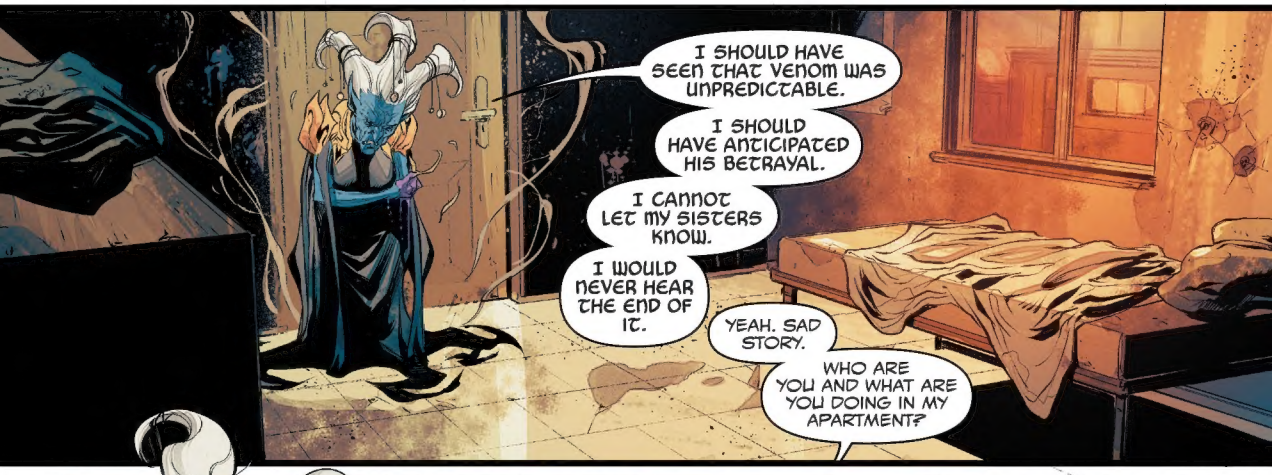

REAARGGH!
CHWOMP
NAH.
N-NO!
NO!
WHY DID I NOT FORESEE THIS?
I MUST-- AWAY!
YOU BETTER RUN.

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE...
...BUT MONSTERS ARE TAKING OVER THE CITY.
AND THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT A MONSTER... IS WITH A MONSTER.
THAT LITTLE WITCH WANTED ME TO SERVE THIS...
...MALEKITH OR WHOEVER...
...BUT I'M FLIPPING THE SCRIPT...
...AND YOU'RE STAYING HERE.
YOU'RE LEAVING ME?
IT'S A BLOODBATH OUT THERE.
I CAN'T SIT THIS ONE OUT. I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT PEOPLE.
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, DYLAN.
WAIT--
SHAKK
I LIED TO THE KID.
MAYBE I'VE GOT MORE PARENTAL INSTINCTS THAN I THOUGHT.

PROTECTING INNOCENTS...
...SURE...
...THE TRIED-AND-TRUE SONG AND DANCE...
...BUT THERE'S MORE...
PLACE THE NEXT SHOT BETWEEN HIS EYES...
...AND I'LL COMMIT MY NEXT THREE MURDERS IN YOUR NAME.
BAH!
FORGET THESE GAMES!
...A NEED...
I WANT SUPPER!
...TO HUNT...
...TO KILL...
...HITTING ME LIKE A JACKHAMMER BEHIND THE EYES...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
YOU DON'T WANT THE KIND OF TROUBLE A GUY LIKE ME CAN DELIVER.
...AND I EITHER INDULGE IT OR LET IT SWALLOW ME WHOLE.

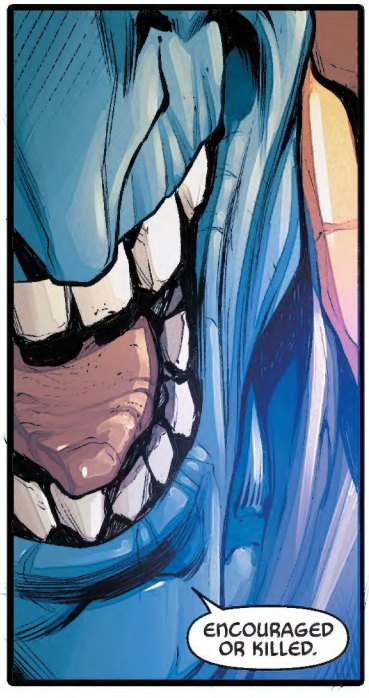
VOICES IN MY HEAD I CAN HANDLE.
ALIEN IMPULSES ARE OLD HAT.
KRA-RAK
THIS AIN'T LIKE THAT.
THERE'S ONLY ONE VOICE IN MY HEAD.
MINE.
YOU'RE A BIG, MEAN FELLA, AIN'T YA?
COME ON, THEN.
I BET YOUR BLOOD TASTES LIKE MULLED--
IT'S AMPLIFIED A THOUSAND TIMES OVER.
SLLLLSH
AND IT'S SCREAMING.
KILL... KILL... KILL!

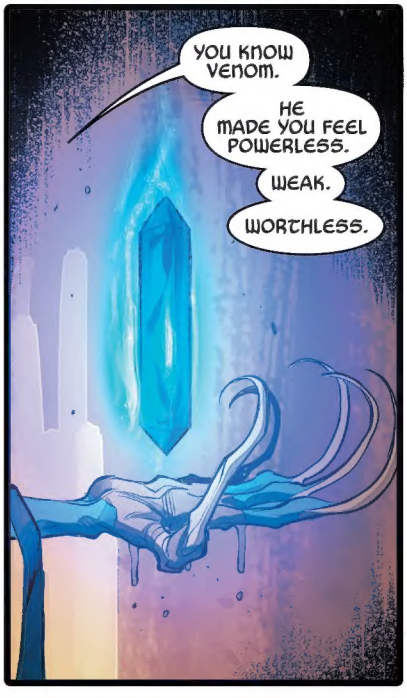
IT SCARES ME.
THIS IS MY VOICE.
I USED THAT WITCH'S DREAMSTONE TO WILL THIS SUIT INTO EXISTENCE.
AND IT'S SO FULL OF ANGER.
SO FULL OF HATE.
KILL.
KILL.
KILL.
WHO... ARE YOU?
WE ARE...
NO.
NOT "WE."
I...AM VENOM.


I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT VENOM WAS UNPREDICTABLE.
I SHOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED HIS BETRAYAL.
I CANNOT LET MY SISTERS KNOW.
I WOULD NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.
YEAH. SAD STORY.
WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY APARTMENT?

I CAN GIVE YOU A GIFT.
I DON'T TAKE GIFTS FROM STRANGERS WITH EYES IN THEIR HAIR.

YOUR WORLD IS BURNING.
AND VENOM WILL YET BE A FINE AGENT OF CHAOS.
BUT I THINK HE NEEDS TO BE... ENCOURAGED.


ENCOURAGED OR KILLED.


YOU KNOW VENOM.
HE MADE YOU FEEL POWERLESS.
WEAK.
WORTHLESS.

BUT IF YOU AGREE TO SERVE ME...
...IF YOU AID ME IN TURNING OR DESTROYING VENOM...
...I CAN MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.
WELL... SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY.

DON'T MIND IF I DO.
TO BE CONTINUED...

Eddie's Clubhouse

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR
NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello, in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! VENOM Editor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print here at Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

It's been a busy month for the whole VENOM crew as we've geared up for THE WAR OF THE REALMS, the culmination of Jason Aaron's incredible tenure at the helm of THOR, and a three-part tie-in adventure in this very comics mag starring Eddie Brock and Dylan!

Donny's been sequestered working on a top-secret project (more on that in a sec), but luckily, ASGARDIANS OF THE GALAXY scribe Cullen Bunn already knows all the details about the conflict that Malekith has brought to New York--and is no stranger to the wicked web-slinger either! Calling on him was an easy choice, and he's got some incredible tricks up his sleeve for this arc!

Bringing Cullen's scripts to life is guest artist IBAN COELLO! Bringing Iban and Cullen together is just a few steps removed from alchemy, and they've worked their magic again on these three issues! With Andres Mossa bringing the heat with the colors, this is one of the most action-packed arcs in the history of the Ten Realms!

A monstrous stone Jack O'Lantern! A KAIJU-SIZED Venom! Even a Venomous Viking! That lunacy and MORE are waiting for you in our next issue, so don't miss a page--tell your local comic shop you want the best, and the best is VENOM!

Cullen's also joining us for an installment of WEB OF VENOM this July, and make no mistake, True Believers, in this arc, that issue and some other ABSOLUTEly awesome and unannounced things to come, he's laying the groundwork for one of the projects I've been most excited about in my whole time at Marvel--but I better stop before I give too much away!

I will say, from one Venomaniac to another: Keep your eyes peeled. Not just in VENOM but in WAR OF THE REALMS and all your favorite Marvel titles coming this spring and summer! The Marvel Universe is a very connected place, and you never know who'll pop up in your favorite series in any given issue!

ITEM: We use the phrase "sinister symbiote" a lot in this neck of the woods, but we don't often get the chance to explore the era when the symbiote WASN'T so sinister.

That's just the idea behind SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN, a flashback series in the same spirit as UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN or your other favorite throwback series.

It's a love letter by Peter David, Greg Land and Frank D'Armata to an era when Peter Parker was on the outs with Aunt May, dating Felicia Hardy and donning a certain black-and-white costume for his vigilante adventures!

And best yet, it's on sale right now!

ITEM: At the time of this writing, we're three days after C2E2, where a video message from Donny announced what he, Ryan, JP Mayer and Frank Martin have all been working on for nearly five months now...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!

Did you hear me?

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE!!!

He's been ripped in half, frozen in space and burned to a crisp, but you just can't keep a good killer down--and finally announced for August of this year, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is Cletus Kasady's brutal return to New York!

It all starts in May with FREE COMIC BOOK DAY, with a ten-page tale that serves as an opening salvo for what's to come.

Beyond that, you'll just have to wait to see what's coming…

ALL RIGHT! Enough plugging--let's get to your letters!

Hey, guys,

It's been a while since I wrote you guys (mainly because the letters pages seem to have vanished from the ends of the comics on my pull list!) but anyway, let's get into this!

Starting off strong with VENOM. Back when Cates first started his run I was hoping for more of a direct voice for the symbiote rather than it being narrated by its host, and he delivered, but not only that, the madman just keeps knocking it out of the park with every issue! The one and only thing that I'd consider a low point of the run is the fact that he killed off Scorn. I really wanted to see more of her and her unique symbiote.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: At this point in his letter, Jaremy went on to say some very nice things about SPIDER-MAN/DEADPOOL and THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but I read the *Bugle*, so we won't devote a single nice word to that menace in THIS letter column!]

Thanks again, guys, and I can't wait for Wednesday!

Jaremy "The Jerm" B.

Thanks for reading and for writing, Jaremy! We hope you dig what's in store for Venom. Believe me, Donny, Ryan and the whole team are only going to keep hitting it out of the park!

Dear VENOM Editors and Creative Team,

I just finished reading issue #12, and I'm still having trouble processing it. Over the entirety of Mr. Cates' run, this series has continuously confounded and amazed me, but I think that this issue pulled off the greatest surprise yet. What is Venom without a host? Is the symbiote going to attempt to establish an identity for itself beyond its host(s)? What does this mean for Eddie as both a hero and a person? He is the symbiote's first and most storied host, so while he has been without it before, it's never been without a host before. It would appear that the symbiote rediscovered its voice at the end of the issue, but can it or should it even try to survive on its own? Does this also change whatever plan Carnage/Knull are currently trying to enact? I know that you probably cannot answer most if not all of these questions for fear of spoilers, but any answers would be very helpful at this time.

In the end, I do hope that Eddie and the symbiote bond again. Not out of necessity but out of love. For Earth, for justice and for each other. I think that a major theme of this run so far has been that they truly are better together than they are apart, and that Eddie is the original and most consistent host for a reason. Together, they can be the greatest hero in the universe. I hope that they come to understand that before it's too late.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mr. Cates, Mr. Stegman, Mr. Mayer, Mr. Martin, Mr. Cassara, Mr. Coello, Mr. Lewis and all the other creators and editors and support staff who have been a part of this amazing book over the past year. You have all helped to craft a truly incredible and thought-provoking story in a way that only comic books can, and I will always be grateful to all of you for that. Please continue going down the path that you are heading, as I believe that you are all creating a classic not only in the world of comic books but in literature at large. If you can all continue to do that, I can continue to Make Mine Marvel!

From one Venomaniac to the rest,

Josh R.
Los Angeles, CA

Man, these are some really kind words, Josh, but we're the ones who owe YOU a thank you for being such a devoted reader. It always means a lot to hear from folks who read the books month in, month out.

As for the answers to your questions… read WAR OF THE REALMS! The symbiote plays a part in that story, and there's even some hints at what you're wondering about Knull too, with even more answers to come in the next few weeks!

Amazing run--please don't stop. I am on the edge of my seat. Carnage has yet to make his appearance! Please don't let Cates go on this one; great writing and the art is very fitting.

Nick D.

Eloquent in its brevity! Thanks for reading, Nick!

Hi, VENOM Team,

Well first off, this story is amazing. Donny Cates is a phenomenal writer. The big twist for me was finding out that Dylan was Eddie's son and not his brother.

But Eddie's father, the way he was so abusive, brought back old memories for myself personally, as I'm sure it did for a lot of people who grew up in abusive homes. And at the end of issue #12 when the symbiote went and saved Eddie's son by itself and let Eddie's father know to stay clear away from Dylan or else--this showed the symbiote really does have a heart, in a way, and it's not just a monster like some may think. I can't wait to see where Venom goes from here.

"We are Venom,"
Chris

Thanks so much for your letter, Chris, and for sharing your story.

Every so often, we get letters where readers express just what you've said—that our books have reflected some of their own difficulties, which makes the heroes of the MU that much more relatable and understandable. It's letters like yours, when you and other readers let us know that we've hit the mark, that make the job worthwhile.

Hey, Marvel,

Just wanted to send some love to the Spidey-Office for the great work you've been doing. Especially with VENOM VOL. 4 and the WEB OF VENOM books.

Love the deepening of lore with the cosmic horror style to it. Venom is my favorite comic character, and I've never been more excited for the character's future. So hyped for ABSOLUTE CARNAGE.

Keep up the good work!

Ivan G.

Oh man, Ivan! I think you get the prize for "First Fan to Write in About ABSOLUTE CARNAGE"! Well done!

That's all the time we've got for this one, Venomaniacs!

We'll be back in one month! In the meantime, peep this cover for VENOM #14 by your favorite and mine, KYLE HOTZ!

Be sure to write us and let us know how we're doing too. If you do, you might see your name in print in an issue of this very comics mag! Send your letters to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM and mark 'em okay to print!

Over and out!
Devin
@edevinlewis